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News and Comment

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True enough, some people are always up and doing—other people.

The MESSAGE is for Mexico and Audrain county first; the world afterwards.

One reason "it pays to be honest" is that there is less competition along that line.

A dispatch every few days that the war in the Philippines is over, but it isn't over. Meanwhile we must all go on being war stumps.

A Miss-and-belle by the name of Mudd married a man named Clay. A naughty exchange suggests that as she is progressive the offspring will likely be bricks.

James Jones, resisting arrest at Vandalia and with threats shooting off his revolver several times, pleaded guilty the other day and was given forty days in jail.

If a man does his duty just half the time he may find a home in heaven, but the fellow who sets the Christian only one day of the seven is apt to find himself left out—but not in the cold.

The Paris Appeal observes: "A family of seven persons, in Wisconsin, were poisoned by eating bologna sausage. We quit eating bologna sausage after Lutert made his wife into sausage in Chicago."

The prediction by Geologists Galbraith that "within the next five years Missouri will startle the world with the great amount of lead, zinc, copper, nickel, cobalt and cadmium in the State," is no surprise to any Missourian.

The war in the Philippines still goes on. It is to be one of indefinite duration, with extermination as the foregone conclusion. Poor Filipinos, they are fighting for the same principles our fathers fought for in '76. They are no more bandits and criminals than were George Washington and his soldiers with frozen and bleeding feet at Valley Forge and Gettysburg. America will suffer the sin she is committing in the Philippines. Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.

In his annual address before the Commercial Travellers' Association, in convention at Albany, N. Y., President Dove declared that he had obtained from the best possible and most reliable sources that thirty-five thousand commercial travelers had been thrown out of work through trusts, and that twenty-five thousand more had their salaries reduced. One in every ten was affected. In conclusion President Dove said: "As to action on trusts, we are novices. We would simply get whipped in a haphazard fight. It would be to our interest to see whether any of the great political organizations deserve our approval. I have thought a monster non-partisan organization might be formed to fight trusts regardless of politics. We are undoubtedly confronted with a demoralized and un-American situation."

"The Soberest Thing."

Louisiana Press.

The Recorder of Audrain County is worthy of all emulation. He refused to issue a marriage license to a young man who was under the influence of liquor. Matrimony is the soberest thing in this world and liquor has no place in it.

PROGRAM

Of the Southwest Audrain Teachers' Institute to be held at Payne School-house.

Following is the program of the Southwest Audrain Teachers' Institute to be held at Payne school-house Jan. 20, beginning promptly at 8:30 a. m.:

Invocation—Rev. Wm. Jesse.

Address of Welcome—Miss Hattie Stevenson.

Response—G. F. Burdette.

"Is Employing Teachers Like Hiring Farmhands or Day Laborers?" Frank L. Bruce, Misses Mattie Ellis and Lebbie Ball.

"Should Education be taught in the Rural Schools?" Prof. D. M. Shouder, Miss Jackson, Miss Hopkins and E. M. Woody.

"Dead Schools and Their Remedies." Prof. J. N. Cross, Rev. E. L. Rodgers, Miss Laura Ridgeway and Miss Owen.

At noon a basket dinner will be served in the schoolhouse.

Query Box, Institute and patrons.

"Best Methods of Teaching Physiology." Prof. G. F. Burdette, Misses Lottie Jesse and Mary Black.

"How to make Bad Boys Good." E. M. Woody and Miss Harrison.

"Infinitives and Participles." F. L. Bruce, Miss Bargin Roberts and J. N. Cross.

All friends of education invited to come and lend a helping hand.

E. M. Woody, Pres.

Miss Lebbie Ball, Secretary.

AFTER "ILE"

Pike and Eastern Audrain Parties to Prospect.

The following interesting article is taken from the Vandalia Leader:

Pike county is certainly going after oil, zinc, or lead in a business like way. There are men in that county who have faith in the old Pike and are willing to put up their money in experimenting. The Chicago Zinc Company have been induced to come there and are now running one drill and will start another in a few days. Oil men from Ohio have been looking over the territory. They believe that valuable mineral can be found there. These people are being assisted by the enterprising citizens of Pike County and especially those of Bowling Green. An effort is being made to lease about three thousand acres of land near New Harmony. If anything of value is found the land owners are to get ten per cent of the gross earnings or one tenth of whatever the prospectors may find, the prospectors to bear all expenses.

A Leader representative talked with an Ohio expert who made an examination of the territory. He said that oil undoubtedly existed there and that it extended as far west as Vandalia. There will be three or four companies started at Bowling Green in the spring and each will want three or four thousand more leases.

These people that are coming in have had long experience in the business and go down from 1500 to 2000 feet.

If there is anything found at Harmony or Curryville it can be found here also and Vandalia is "in" on any enterprise that will better the condition of the town and surrounding country.

It is understood that L. N. Stephens and Bob Pollard, of Bowling Green, have been very active in promoting these enterprises, and have much faith in the outcome.

Mexico is to have a new hotel. Mrs. Tina Dobyns and Mr. Halsy Mathews will be the managers. They have leased the Armstrong block for this purpose. The building is to be remodeled and overhauled and put into first class shape in every way. The hotel is to be known as the Planter. The MESSAGE bespeaks for the new enterprise a generous support by the public.

The MESSAGE is only \$1.00 per year. Now is the time to subscribe.

Andrew Carnegie warns the Republican party that if it endorses imperialism he hasn't a cent for Mark Hanna's campaign fund. Andrew, we hope you'll stick to it.

Bodies of Prehistoric Americans. Zealous antiquaries are discovering a good many mounds made by prehistoric races along the Ohio river. One was discovered recently about six miles above the mouth of Rush creek, Adams county, Ohio. Just below Renee, O., 200 yards from the water, is a mound fifty feet in diameter which harbored twenty-two skeletons. Numerous fragments of pottery were found and perforated mussel shells were numerous. The explorers found a bone awl, three arrow-heads, three war points and three worked pieces of shell and many pipes and ornaments.

A Quarantine Against Cows. A curious contest is going on in Tampa, Fla. Residents of certain sections of the city want an exemption made of their part of the city so that cows may graze in the streets. Other residents do not want this, and the fight is a lively one, the city administration being the sufferer. So many depredations have been made recently by cows ranging at large in the streets that the local residents and owners of lawns and flower gardens have organized a shotgun quarantine against the cows and declare that they are going to murder some of them if they are not kept locked up.

NEW YEAR'S REVERIE.

ELLA WHEELER WILSON.

I leaned down over the cavern
Time dug for the old year's tomb,
And laid my dead beside it
(For the sexton gave no room).
'Twas a skeleton form of sorrow
At last I buried away;
It had stalked thru my soul's castle
And haunted me many a day.
And then, as I peered down deeper,
I saw there yet was space
For a grudge that long had shadowed
My heart's most sunny place;
And I cast the blighting burden
In the grave where it belonged.
As I said: "There are fates more bitter
Than to be the one who is wronged."
And down on the lid of the coffin
I laid a vain regret
For a time and a pleasure vanished,
For a day whose sun was set;
And just as the tomb was closing
I flung in a selfish thought,
To lie in the dark and molder,
And perish as it ought.
And while the bells were ringing
Their midnight chimes, I said:
"Since good endureth forever,
Let the dead year bury its dead."
And then, like a radiant angel
Outlined in the skies above,
With the glad New Year in His bosom,
I saw the Spirit of love.
And he spake: "It is only sorrow
And sin and folly that dies;
Whatever was good in the Old Year
In the soul of the New Year lies.
As you stand on the grave of error,
Look up, for the stars are true!
Let go of the things departed—
Reach out for the things that are new!"

Judge Ross Dead.

Judge J. E. Ross, president of the Savings Bank of Mexico, died last Thursday afternoon after an illness of several months from heart trouble.

Judge Ross was an upright man, and one of Mexico's most substantial citizens. He was born in Pennsylvania and came to Mexico 43 years ago. In 1857 he was elected a Judge of the Audrain County Court and served in that place with honor to himself and the county. He was a devoted churchman and was always alive to the best interests of all those about him. Such men are always missed.

Iron Dearer Than Gold. Machines in a watch factory will cut screws with 500 threads in an inch. These threads are invisible to the naked eye, and it takes 11,000 screws to make a pound. A pound of them is worth six pounds of pure gold.

PASSING OF THE 19TH CENTURY

BY A FORMER MEXICO BOY
Read before "The Greenwood Club," Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 15, 1899, by F. W. Williams, Chase School, Kansas City, Mo. (Continued from last week.)

When the century opened the map showed 13 struggling American colonies along the Atlantic coast. All the rest of what we now own belonged then to foreign powers. Central and South America were still under the yoke of Spain, except a small portion of country held by the Portuguese. The colonies were surrounded by discouraging circumstances. They had only a few years before achieved their independence from England. There were in all about 3,000,000 inhabitants. They were surrounded by hostile Indians. There were forests to be cut down, roots to be dug up; land to be subdued and cultivated, bridges to be built, roads to be made, cities and towns to be built and the foundation of our great country securely made. With no knowledge of or power over steam, electricity or compressed air; with no machinery; no late-day inventions for saving labor; having poor

Napoleon Bonaparte. He was planning to mass all European States and Nations into an Universal Empire—himself the head, Paris the capital. The tide was in his favor; he controlled 75,000,000 souls. The tide turned; powerful alliances were quickly formed against him. The final struggle of this single ambitious man against a whole group of European Nations came at last. There was an awful vertigo—a world earthquake—Waterloo became the hinge, turning the political events of the 19th century. The great conqueror disappeared as if by the power of Destiny, and a great age, full of geographical changes, began.

As we look backward then the years, we see there has been almost continuous war in some parts of the globe during the entire century. By actual count ninety wars have occurred, some of them on small scale; some on a large scale. Eighty international and tribal disputes (which threatened to result in war) were settled by arbitration. The century has witnessed a great development in the Science and Art of war. The improvements in all varieties of fire-arms; the manufacture of great guns; of smokeless powders; of terrible projectiles; of light, steel-plated battle ships; the scientific building of fortifications; the establishment of military and naval schools; the tremendous armament of the nation, and the close study of all things concerning war. Many times, during the century, have "Lean-looking prophets" whispered, "Change!" And prognosticators said, "All the bay-trees in our country are withered."

"The meteors fright the fixed stars of Heaven,
And the pale-faced moon looks bloody on the earth."
Yet, the mighty Continental War, the conflict of European nations, has not yet occurred, and whether it even will, now remains the unanswerable question.

A theory of universal peace has been preached by one class, and steps taken to disarm the nations on the plan of international agreement. The nations of the world are still studying the proposal (who some seem averse to it). Its consummation may we not hope will be the crowning event of the 20th century? There are two sides, the "Peace Party," holding that education, high motives, and enlightenment of the nations will lessen the probability of war; the "War Party," claiming (as did a certain U. S. Senator) "The surest way to peace is then the barren gates of war." Their argument is that the invention and manufacture of most awful, death-dealing implements will make war more terrifying and fatal, and will finally compel international peace.

Notwithstanding the fact of all the bloodshed in this century, we find in its closing years the most significant movement towards securing peace to the earth that has ever before been made. The whole world was astonished. In August, 1898, Nicholas I., Czar of all the Russians, the autocrat who rules an area of 8,1 million square miles, a standing army of 1,1 million and a population of 125,000,000, published in "Universal Peace Proposals." In conclusion the Czar said: "The conference will be, by the help of God, a happy prelude for the Century which is about to open." The plan to disarm and to demobilize the armies and navies of the world and for all mankind to shake hands and from henceforth be brothers, is the outgrowth of that great sentiment of "humanity," which has been so wonderfully developed during the past century. It is the happy beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah—

"And the people shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation shall not lift the sword against Nation; neither shall they learn war any more."
It will be a glorious realization of Tennyson's lines—

"Clipped into the future, far as human eyes can see,
Saw the 'Vision of the world,' the wonder that would be,
The war-trains thrilled no longer,
The battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world."

Education is the lever that lifts Humanity. The Free Public School System is a product of the 19th century. Among the thousands and thousands of workers in the cause of popular Education, there may be seen six conspicuous figures, which we may term "The Century's Beacon-lights."—Pestalozzi, Froebel, Horris Mann, David Page, Dr. Thomas Arnold and Dr. W. T. Harris. This has been a great and broadening age in Education. It has seen the fields of knowledge so widened and the limitations so unrestricted that the masses, as well as the classes, have been abundantly gathering the rich heritage. In the beginning of the century learning was practically monopolized by four classes, well-to-do people, University professors, the nobility and the priests. There was nothing for the poor but hard, untrained labor and enforced ignorance. All of the avenues now leading to a wide, free public education had not been opened; free Public Libraries were not known; that great educational force, the daily newspaper, had scarcely started on its mission. There were no Lecture Courses; no "Chautauques"; no "Reading Circles," and but a very few books, and they had an extremely narrow radius of circulation.

Education was confined to charity-schools, parish schools, boarding schools, colleges and universities to the beginning of the 19th century. Then began the great movements looking to free public education. 1793, elementary schools were established throughout France, making attendance compulsory. 1806, Napoleon established a splendid system which in effect is yet in operation. In 1831 Universal Education law passed in France. 1818 the English Government began to concern itself about the education of the masses, but it was not until 1874 that the first annual grant for "Free Education" was made. In 1875 the plan of granting the 16th section from every township of public land for the maintenance of public schools in the U. S. began. From 1785 to 1862 nearly 210,000,000 acres were sold in that manner and the purchase price turned into the public school fund. Special grants have been made at different times. 1862, Congress made a grant of land to the amount of 30,000 acres for each Senator and Representative for the establishment of Agricultural colleges. 9,510,000 acres of land were thus donated to the several States. 1838, the first Normal School was established in the U. S. 1840, the first Kindergarten was established at Fiskstadt. 1857, the National Educational Association was formed, and in 1867 the National Bureau of Education was established.

The growth and development of Free Public Instruction all over the world, but particularly in the U. S., during the last third of the century has been truly wonderful. There is a wide diffusion of light and knowledge among all classes of people from the poorest to the proudest. The great uplifting and ennobling power of Truth and of Human Liberty have been felt in this century as never before. The age has been one in which the individual is absorbed in the mass. The world has new ideas now. This has been an age of great and general culture. Nations have been brought in closer touch than the means of modern transportation and communications. There is a stronger bond of brotherhood and the world is better. There are "larger constellations burning, mellower moons and happier skies, Larger lengths of tropical shade and clustered palms of Paradise." This has been the "Imperial Age" of Science. The discoveries and inventions of this century are not equaled in number or in impor-

tance by all of the other centuries combined. There is a long "Roll of Honor" among all the nations. From scores of others we may select:—Herschel, Whitney, La Place, Davy, Humboldt, Faraday, Agassiz, LeVerrier, Tyndall, Darwin, Huxley, Kant, Spencer, Edison and Morse.

The greatest discoveries of the age are:—

"Correlation of Physical Forces."

"Rapid Motion of every particle of Matter."

"All forces may be caused by Gravitation."

Mechanical Equivalent of Heat leading to the Conservation of Energy."

Magnetic Needle is controlled by the Electric Current."

"Nearly all of the Chemical Elements and their Combinations."

"Natural Gas."

"Products of Petroleum."

"Laws Controlling Atmospheric and Ocean Currents."

"The Establishment of the Theory of Organic Evolution."

"The Antiquity of Man."

"The proof of the Glacial Epoch."

"Embryology and Cell Theory."

"Function of White Corpuscles in Human Blood."

"Ratios existing between Molecules."

"Relation Between Electric Action and Chemical Affinity."

"Artificial Production of Several Organic Compounds from their Organic Elements."

"The Spectrum Analysis."

"Vaccination."

"Anesthesia in Surgery."

"Germ Theory in disease."

"Molecular Theory of Gases."

"The Nebular Theory."

"The Atomic Theory."

It is the proud boast of Americans that in the matter of inventions and machinery we lead all other nations. The bulk of our labor is performed by machinery. Ours is a country where the live "Yankee" has developed a wonderful capacity for inventing things. The records of the U. S. Patent office from 1837 to 1897 show that 1,040,035 patents have been issued. Some of the greatest inventions of the country have been:

Use of steam, electricity and compressed air and water as a motive power.

Manufacture of steel and iron.

Reduction of gold, silver and other metals.

Machines for spinning weaving, carding, knitting, sewing, stamping, plowing, reaping, moving and seedling.

Machines for printing, typesetting, writing lithographing and photographing.

Railway, steamships, ocean cables, steel bridges, steel structures.

Electric telegraph, telephone, megaphone, phonograph, stethoscope, spectroscope.

Elevators; friction matches; gas light for street and houses; light and heat from electricity. Multiplex currents; the Dynamo and Motor; Electric transportation; the Automobile; the Bicycle; explosives and improvements in fire arms; inventions and improvements in dental and surgical instruments.

Continued on 11th page.

The girls should find a less fatal apparatus than the corset if they just must be squeezed.

If any minister in this town gets a copy of that argument sent out by the American Protective League urging that a protective tariff helps church collections, the MESSAGE would like to see it. It must be a flimsy argument.

Heathen from an Open Fireplace.

Physicians are discovering that the old-time open fire had much to do with the health of our grandmothers and that steam heat and furnace heat are responsible for many ailments. Steam heat especially has a way of gradually increasing so that anyone who is used to a steam-heated room becomes an easy victim to colds and all the long string of ailments to which a cold is the introduction. An open fire is a sort of inspiration in itself, and since it draws in the out-of-door oxygen through all the cracks and crannies it helps to purify the air in the room while it heats it.